Asia, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Spain, Sri Lanka and the countries of European Union) in the last four years are as under:

\ear	Iron and Steel Bar/Rod etc.		Primary & Semi & Steel	-finished Iron
	Value in Rs. Lakhs	Quantity in Ton	Value in Rs. Lakhs	Quantity in '000 Ton
1998-99	34918.79	108.27	208699.32	1594.88
1999-2000	44574.79	139.09	316386.38	2224.04
2000-2001	69900.04	179.80	399884.37	2355.78
2001-2002*	79061.61	261.90	347208.10	2178.76
2001 (April-June)*	17420.31	46.39	92679.26	617.45
2002 (April-June)*	24975.61	77.08	97943.38	570.98

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata
*Provisional

MMTC to enter agriculture products export business

1806. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation proposes to enter agriculture products export business;

(b) if so, the agri-products that would be exported; and

(c) the names of countries to which this will be exported alongwith the quantity of the products to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) MMTC (formerly Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation) is already in the business of export of agriculture products. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is supplying wheat and rice for export (purpose as per the Policy of the Government and efforts are made to export these to the international market at competitive rates, based on terms and conditions of FCI.

(c) Some SAARC (South Asian Association for Reyional Cooperation), ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and African

countries, which have geographical proximity to India, are the natural markets of MMTC for export of wheat and rice. MMTC has already exported 846351 Metric Tonnes of wheat and 426672 Metric Tonnes of rice in FY 2002-03 (upto 30th November 2002).

FDI

1807. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign direct Investment in the country in the past three years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the level of FDI?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved by the Government during the last three years are as under:—

(Rupees in crore)

Year	1999	2000	2001
No. of approvals	1726	1726	1982
Amount of FDI inflows	10,166.68	12,353.78	16,777.65

The above inflow figures are net of ADRs/GDRs.

(b) The Government of India is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously to make it more investor friendly. In order to catalyse FDI, the Government has also permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most activities.

Separate agency for export of marine products

1808. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are establishing a separate agency for export of marine products from the East Coast;